

ESB 6194 - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Health Care

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 03/01/2006

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that women and people  
4 of color experience significant disparities from the general population  
5 in education, employment, healthy living conditions, access to health  
6 care, and other social determinants of health. The legislature finds  
7 that it shall be a priority for the state to develop the knowledge,  
8 attitudes, and practice skills of health professionals and those  
9 working with diverse populations to achieve a greater understanding of  
10 the relationship between culture and health and gender and health.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW  
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) For the purposes of this section, "multicultural health" means  
14 the provision of health care services with the knowledge and awareness  
15 of the causes and effects of the determinants of health that lead to  
16 disparities in health status between different genders and racial and  
17 ethnic populations and the practice skills necessary to respond  
18 appropriately.

19 (2) The department, in consultation with the disciplining  
20 authorities as defined in RCW 18.130.040, shall establish, within  
21 available department general funds, an ongoing multicultural health  
22 awareness and education program as an integral part of its health  
23 professions regulation. The purpose of the education program is to  
24 raise awareness and educate health care professionals regarding the  
25 knowledge, attitudes, and practice skills necessary to care for diverse  
26 populations to achieve a greater understanding of the relationship  
27 between culture and health. The disciplining authorities having the  
28 authority to offer continuing education may provide training in the  
29 dynamics of providing culturally competent, multicultural health care

1 to diverse populations. Any such education shall be developed in  
2 collaboration with education programs that train students in that  
3 health profession. No funds from the health professions account may be  
4 utilized to fund activities under this section unless the disciplining  
5 authority authorizes expenditures from its proportions of the account.  
6 A disciplining authority may defray costs by authorizing a fee to be  
7 charged for participants or materials relating to any sponsored  
8 program.

9 (3) By July 1, 2008, each education program with a curriculum to  
10 train health professionals for employment in a profession credentialed  
11 by a disciplining authority under chapter 18.130 RCW shall integrate  
12 into the curriculum instruction in multicultural health as part of its  
13 basic education preparation curriculum. The department may not deny  
14 the application of any applicant for a credential to practice a health  
15 profession on the basis that the education or training program that the  
16 applicant successfully completed did not include integrated  
17 multicultural health curriculum as part of its basic instruction."

18 Correct the title.

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